

## Accident Briefs

### (Aviation Accident Briefs)

#### Rotary Wing

##### CH-47

###### D Model

- Class C: Aircraft was ground taxiing on the runway when its rotor wash caused damage to a parked DC-3.

- Class D: The pilots felt a high-frequency vibration in the forward transmission during cruise flight and returned the aircraft to base for further inspection. The vibration was present on the ground, although less noticeable. After shutdown, maintenance personnel determined the #1 FLT HYD pump was failing and replaced it.

##### MH-47

###### E Model

- Class D: The crew noticed the No. 2 aircraft pylon hydraulic access panel was missing during the post-flight inspection. The inspection revealed the leading edge camlock fastener on the access panel had failed, resulting in the panel separating from and striking the airframe during flight. The aircraft was released for repair.

##### OH-58

###### D(R) Model

- Class B: Aircraft experienced an overtorque condition during out-of-ground effect hover.

- Class C: The aircraft suffered damage during an M4 weapons test fire when some of the rounds contacted a main rotor blade.

**---Do your pilots-in-command conduct crew and passenger briefs that include discussion of weapons usage and effects during flight operations?**

##### UH-1

###### H Model

- Class A: Four crewmembers and five civilians suffered injuries when their aircraft contacted wires during flight and struck a mountainside. The aircraft was destroyed.

**---Do you conduct adequate pre-mission planning and use a current hazard map for reconnaissance and navigation?**

##### UH-60

###### L Model

- Class A: Three crewmembers suffered fatal injuries when their aircraft impacted the ground during a night vision goggle training flight.

#### Unmanned Aircraft Systems

##### RQ-7B

- Class B: The UAS crashed and was destroyed during return to the launch and recovery site.

- Class B: Engine rpm dropped abruptly as the UAS proceeded up the launcher, preventing the aircraft from maintaining flight. The UAS glided under minimum power for 525 feet and crashed into a motor pool, causing extensive damage to the aircraft.

##### RQ-11

- Class C: While conducting a surveillance reconnaissance mission, the UAS operator lost all power on the ground control unit. The GCU came back up and reset with no GPS lock or light setting. In addition, the aircraft did not return to its programmed rally point nor respond to manual controls. The UAS crashed and could not be located.

#### Ground Accident Briefs

##### AMV

- Class A: A Soldier was killed when the HMMWV he was riding in rolled over. The Soldier, who was serving as the gunner, was pinned underneath the vehicle. The accident occurred in the early morning.

**---Are your vehicles retrofitted with the improved gunner restraint system?**

- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal injuries when the FMTV he was driving overturned. The Soldier was attempting to drive around an impassable portion of roadway when



the accident occurred. The Soldier was evacuated for treatment but died at the aid station. Seat belt use was not reported. The accident occurred in the mid-evening.

- **Class B (Damage):** Two Soldiers suffered minor injuries when their M978A2 HEMTT fueler rolled over. The driver was operating the vehicle on an unimproved surface at a high rate of speed when he attempted to make a turn. The vehicle's excessive speed, combined with the weight of the JP8 fuel it was carrying, caused it to fishtail and overturn. The driver and vehicle commander were evacuated to a hospital and treated for their injuries. Both Soldiers were wearing their seat belts, Kevlars and eye protection. The vehicle suffered a bent frame and was deemed a total loss. The accident occurred in the mid-evening.

### **Personnel Injury**

- **Class A:** A Soldier suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the head during an enemy engagement. Friendly fire is suspected. The accident occurred in the early morning.

### **---Are your Soldiers practicing proper weapons handling?**

- **Class A:** A Soldier died after becoming ill while participating in a physical

training test. The Soldier was evacuated to a local hospital before being transferred to a heart and lung center, where he was pronounced dead. The accident occurred in the mid-morning.

- **Class A:** Two Soldiers drowned when they were caught on a lake in bad weather. The Soldiers were fishing in a small boat, and their bodies were found three days later. Neither Soldier was wearing a life jacket.

### **---Have you talked with your Soldiers about their off-duty activities and hazards?**

- **Class A:** A Soldier drowned while body boarding. His body was discovered in shallow water. No further details were reported.

- **Class B:** A Soldier suffered a permanent partial disability when a .50-caliber round detonated inside the chamber of the weapon he was operating. Shrapnel struck the Soldier's leg. The accident occurred in the late evening.

- **Class B:** A Soldier suffered a permanent partial disability when the taxi he was riding in was stuck by a pickup traveling on the wrong side of the road. The Soldier's spleen was removed during subsequent surgery.

- **Class C:** A Soldier was injured during range training when his .50-caliber weapon misfired and the round exploded. The Soldier was knocked backward and fell into a 5-foot-deep foxhole, fracturing his skull and cutting his face and head. No shrapnel was found in the Soldier's head. The accident occurred in the mid-morning.

### **---Are your Soldiers wearing the appropriate PPE?**

- **Class C:** A Soldier suffered an eye injury while conducting an area security mission. The Soldier was moving toward the rear of a vehicle when the M249 gunner engaged a target. The Soldier was struck in the right eye by a blank round after it was ejected from the weapon. The Soldier was transported to the emergency room, where he received two sutures in his cornea and was hospitalized for four days. The accident occurred in the mid-afternoon.

- **Class C:** Three Soldiers suffered minor injuries when a burlap sack containing a substance believed to be a homemade explosive discharged. The Soldiers were examining the sack when some ashes from one of the Soldier's cigarette ignited the substance. Two of the Soldiers were treated



at the troop medical clinic and returned to duty. The third Soldier was transported to the hospital for an eye injury and kept overnight for observation. He returned to duty the following day with a 30-day duty restriction. The accident occurred in the early afternoon.

## **Driving/Off-duty Accident Briefs**

The following reports reflect accidents that have happened to Soldiers in their privately owned vehicles, during recreational activities and in other non-tactical environments.

### **POV (CARS)**

- Class A: A Soldier was killed when his POV left the road and struck a tree. The Soldier was wearing his seat belt.
- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal injuries when his vehicle left the road, struck a culvert, became airborne and landed in a ditch. The Soldier was en route to his duty station for weekend drill. Seat belt use was not reported.
- Class A: A Soldier died when his POV crossed a median and overturned on an icy road. The Soldier was traveling to his leave location and was wearing his seat belt.
- Class A: Two Soldiers were killed when the POV they were riding in hit a tractor-trailer. The driver, also a Soldier, was attempting to pass the tractor-trailer when he lost control of the vehicle. Seat belt use was not reported.
- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal injuries when his POV rolled over on an interstate highway. The Soldier reportedly fell asleep at the wheel and when the vehicle rolled, its roof caved in on the Soldier and his brother. Both the Soldier and his brother, who suffered minor injuries, were wearing their seat belts. The Soldier is believed to have been behind the wheel for three hours and had driven about 180 miles when the accident occurred.
- Class A: A Soldier died when his truck hit an oncoming tractor-trailer. The Soldier was traveling eastbound when he lost control of the pickup, which crossed the median into the opposing lane. The accident happened after sunset during adverse weather conditions. Seat belt use was not reported.
- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal injuries when his pickup hit an oncoming tractor-trailer. The Soldier was traveling on an interstate highway during bad weather when he lost control of the truck. Seat belt use was not reported.
- Class A: A Soldier was killed when his truck left the roadway. The pickup crossed the opposing traffic lanes and exited the road's shoulder as the driver was rounding a left-hand curve. Seat belt use was not reported.
- Class A: A Soldier died when his pickup rolled over several times after being hit by a bus on a freeway onramp. The Soldier was thrown from the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene.

### **---Do your Soldiers discount the value of a good night's sleep?**

- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal burns when his POV caught fire after a single-vehicle accident. The Soldier was trapped inside the car and pronounced dead at a local hospital.
- Class A: A Soldier was killed when his pickup drifted off the road, spun around, overturned, struck an electrical post and caught fire.

### **POM (Motorcycles)**

- Class A: A Soldier died when his motorcycle collided head-on with a pickup. The Soldier was attempting to



pass another vehicle on the right when the motorcycle crossed the centerline. The Soldier was wearing his helmet and required personal protective equipment.

- Class A: A Soldier suffered fatal injuries when his motorcycle overturned and hit a concrete pole. The Soldier was rounding a curve at the time of the accident. He was properly licensed and wearing required PPE.
- Class B: A Soldier suffered head injuries resulting in a permanent partial disability when he was thrown from his bike. The Soldier lost control of the motorcycle when a POV entered his path. The Soldier was properly licensed and wearing required PPE.
- Class C: A Soldier suffered a dislocated shoulder when his motorcycle crashed in a ditch. The Soldier was riding his motorcycle in family housing at 30 mph in a 45-mph speed zone after dark. He reportedly misjudged the angle of a turn and attempted to make it too fast, resulting in the accident. The Soldier was properly licensed and wearing required PPE.

## **Editor's note:**

**Information published in this section is based on preliminary mishap reports submitted by units and is subject to change. For more information on selected accident briefs, call DSN 558-9552 (334-255-9552) or DSN 558-3410 (334-255-3410).**